

## Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 /059 W

----- 009961

O R 200750Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8966

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 1876

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: ANTI-SLANDER BILL PASSED BY ASSEMBLY

REF: (A) STATE 062487; (B) SEOUL 1845

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PASSED ANTI-SLANDER AMENDMENT  
EVENING MARCH 19. GOVERNMENT ASSEMBLYMEN MET AND  
PASSED BILL IN SEPARATE ASSEMBLY ROOM WHILE NDP  
OCCUPIED MAIN CHAMBER. NDP CHARGED THAT THEIR EXCLUSION  
FROM VOTE ILLEGAL AND HAVE DECLARED BILL "NULL AND VOID."

2. AMENDMENT AS PASSED INCLUDES ONE SIGNIFICANT  
CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL DRAFT SUBMITTED TO ASSEMBLY (REF B).  
CHANGE SPECIFIES THAT PUNITIVE MEASURES OF AMENDMENT  
APPLY ONLY TO "DOMESTIC PERSONS" (KOREAN: NAE KUK IN)  
RATHER THAN "PERSONS".

3. POL COUNS CALLED ON MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU  
DIRECTOR YI SANG-OK MARCH 20 TO CLARIFY WHETHER LAW  
APPLICABLE TO FOREIGNERS IN KOREA AND TO KOREAN  
CITIZENS RESIDING IN US. YI SAID THAT HE WAS UNABLE  
TO GIVE AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION OF LAW AT THIS  
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TIME. IT WAS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT LAW WOULD NOT APPLY  
TO FOREIGNERS IN KOREA; HE HAD NO IDEA WHETHER  
IT WOULD APPLY TO KOREAN CITIZENS PERMANENTLY RESIDING  
IN THE US. YI SAID HE WOULD ASK THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

TO CLARIFY BOTH POINTS AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE  
EMBASSY WITHIN A DAY OR TWO.

4. MARCH 20 RADIO AND MAJORITY AFTERNOON PAPERS HAVE  
REPORTED DEPT RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRIES ON BILL.  
TONGA ILBO QUOTES DEPT SPOKESMAN AS SAYING US POSITION  
SUPPORTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS WELL KNOWN. CHUNGANG  
ILBO AND SHINA ILBO CHARACTERIZE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSE  
AS EXPRESSION OF "DISSATISFACTION." CHUNGANG ARTICLE  
ALSO QUOTES US GOVT OFFICIAL AS SAYING SUCH ACTION WILL  
NOT CONTRIBUTE TO GOOD IMAGE OF ROK IN FREE WORLD.

5. TONGA ILBO GOSSIP COLUMN QUOTES NDP LEADER KIM YONG-SAM,  
COMMENTING ON DEPT STATEMENT, AS SAYING IT APPEARS THAT  
AMERICAN PEOPLE CONSIDER BILL AS ANTI-AMERICAN LAW.  
KIM ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT CHAIRMAN HOUSE FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PLANS TO VISIT ROK DURING LATE MARCH  
BECAUSE OF LAW. (POSSIBLY REFERRING TO SCHEDULED VISIT  
OF SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FRASER).  
ERICSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEFAMATION, AMENDMENTS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, CRIMINAL LAW, INFORMATION CONTROL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975SEOUL01876  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750097-0145  
**From:** SEOUL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 84  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
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05 JUL 2006

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, KS  
**To:** STATE INFO TOKYO  
CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006